(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Open Series Maps (OSMs) will be freely available from the Survey of India to the public/private/non-governmental agencies for research, planning, infrastructure development, disaster mitigation and conservation of natural resources etc. after obtaining the one time clearance from the Ministry of Defence.

Policy on Biotechnology

1211. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that genetic experts and some of the members of the Expert Committee constituted to frame the policy on Biotechnology assailed the draft policy saying that it is for developing biotechnology and not using biotechnology for development;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on this; and

(c) the genuine efforts Government are making or have made to elicit views from public and others on this proposed policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Draft Biotech Strategy was placed on the departmental web site on 31st March 2005 and was open for comments up to 16th May 2005. More than 250 comments have been received from students; scientists from academia, research institutes and industry; policy makers; NGO's and international organizations. Consultations have also been held with representatives of NGO's, research scientists, academicians and other stake holders.

Central Electronics Limited

1212. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Centra! Electronics Limited is the largest manufacturer of Solar Photovoltaic products, among top producers of crystalline silicon solar cells/modules;

(b) if so, what are reasons for which it is incurring operating loss for the last three years; and